

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 11978 100924Z

14

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 IO-15 AF-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CCO-00 SCS-03

AID-20 FBO-01 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NIC-01 NSC-10

SPC-03 OC-06 OPR-02 PA-03 USSS-00 RSC-01 PRS-01

SCA-01 A-01 OMB-01 SS-15 SY-10 DRC-01 /166 W

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O P 100902Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4669

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 11978

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, SY

SUBJECT: SITUATION IN DAMASCUS

1. DR. CARDILLI, USINT DAMASCUS, TELEPHONED CONSOFF LATE LAST NIGHT FROM ITALIAN EMBASSY BEIRUT. CARDILLI PREPARING FOR IMMEDIATE RETURN TO DAMASCUS FOLLOWING ARRIVAL HERE WITH EVACUATED ITALIAN EMBASSY DEPENDENTS AND HAD TIME FOR ONLY BRIEF DESCRIPTION SITUATION IN DAMASCUS.

2. CARDILLI STATED DAMAGE IN DAMASCUS DIPLOMATIC AND FOREIGN RESIDENTIAL AREA SEVERE. CONFIRMED REPORTS THAT INTENDED TARGET DEFENSE MINISTRY. TOTAL CIVILIANS KILLED BELIEVED TO BE ABOUT 150, PLUS MORE THAN 200 WOUNDED. FOREIGN CASUALTIES INCLUDED WIFE AND CHILD OF "UNDP OFFICIAL", PAKISTANI AMBASSADOR'S WIFE, AND PERHAPS OTHERS. HE DID NOT MENTION NORWEGIAN DEATHS REPORTED JERUSALEM
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1086. NO CASUALTIES ON ITALIAN EMBASSY STAFF.

3. CARDILLI HAS NOT LEARNED OF ANY AMERICAN CASUALTIES. ALTHOUGH COMMUNICATION FACILITIES LIMITED, WILL ATTEMPT INFORM US IF HE LEARNS OF ANY.

4. CARDILLI STATES THAT SITUATION AT US INTERESTS SECTION DIFFICULT. PRIVATE HOUSE OF ONE FSL COMPLETELY DESTROYED. BOMB FRAGMENTS HIT AMERICAN OFFICIAL RESIDENCE, BUT CAUSED NO DAMAGE EXCEPT TO ONE CHAIR. HE HAS, IN EFFECT, CLOSED FOR ALL ROUTINE SERVICES.

5. HE DESCRIBES MOOD IN DAMASCUS AS "UGLY". POPULATION WELL AWARE THAT PHANTOMS AND BOMBS ARE "MADE IN AMERICA." WIDESPREAD RUMOR IN DAMASCUS IS THAT PILOTS WERE AMERICAN.

6. CARDILLI WILL NOT BE ABLE TO RETURN TO BEIRUT UNTIL NEXT WEEK AT EARLIEST. ANY FURTHER REPORTING, THEREFORE, MUST COME THROUGH ITALIANS IN ROME.
BUFFUM

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Message Attributes

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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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